

2014-15 Special Education Extraordinary Spending Report

July 25, 2015

Statutory Requirement

- “Annually, the commissioner shall report to the state board regarding:
 - Special education expenditures by school districts;
 - The rate of growth or decrease in special education costs, including the identity of high and low spending districts...”

Source: VSA T.16 § 2974

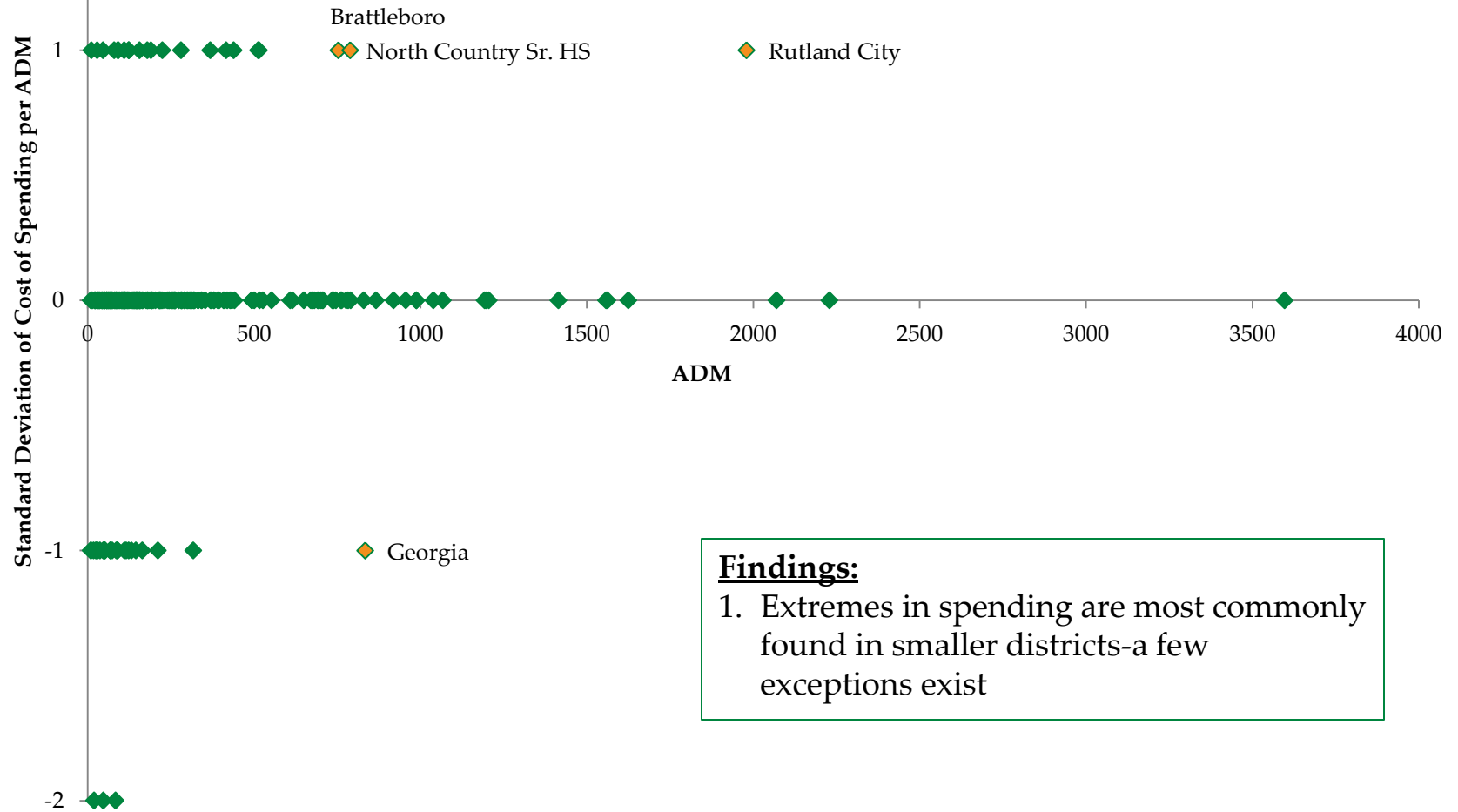
Findings

1. Overall, few school districts are spending at exceptionally high or low levels.
2. Extremes in spending are more common for smaller districts
3. Higher rates of poverty are associated with higher percentages of students in Child Count.
4. Higher spending is related to
 - A. higher percentages of students needing out of district placement
 - B. higher percentages of child count students identified with high cost disabilities
5. Higher spending is not directly related to staffing ratios across the state
6. There is wide variability in staffing ratios across the state.

Overall Spending

		Per Child Count Spending				
		Very Low	Low	Average	High	Very High
Spending Standard Deviation by ADM	Very Low	<1%	<1%	<1%	0%	0%
	Low	0%	4%	6%	0%	<1%
	Average	<1%	2%	70%	4%	2%
	High	0%	0%	8%	<1%	0%
	Very High	<1%	0%	<1%	1%	<1%

Distribution of Districts by ADM and Standard Deviation of Cost of Spending per ADM



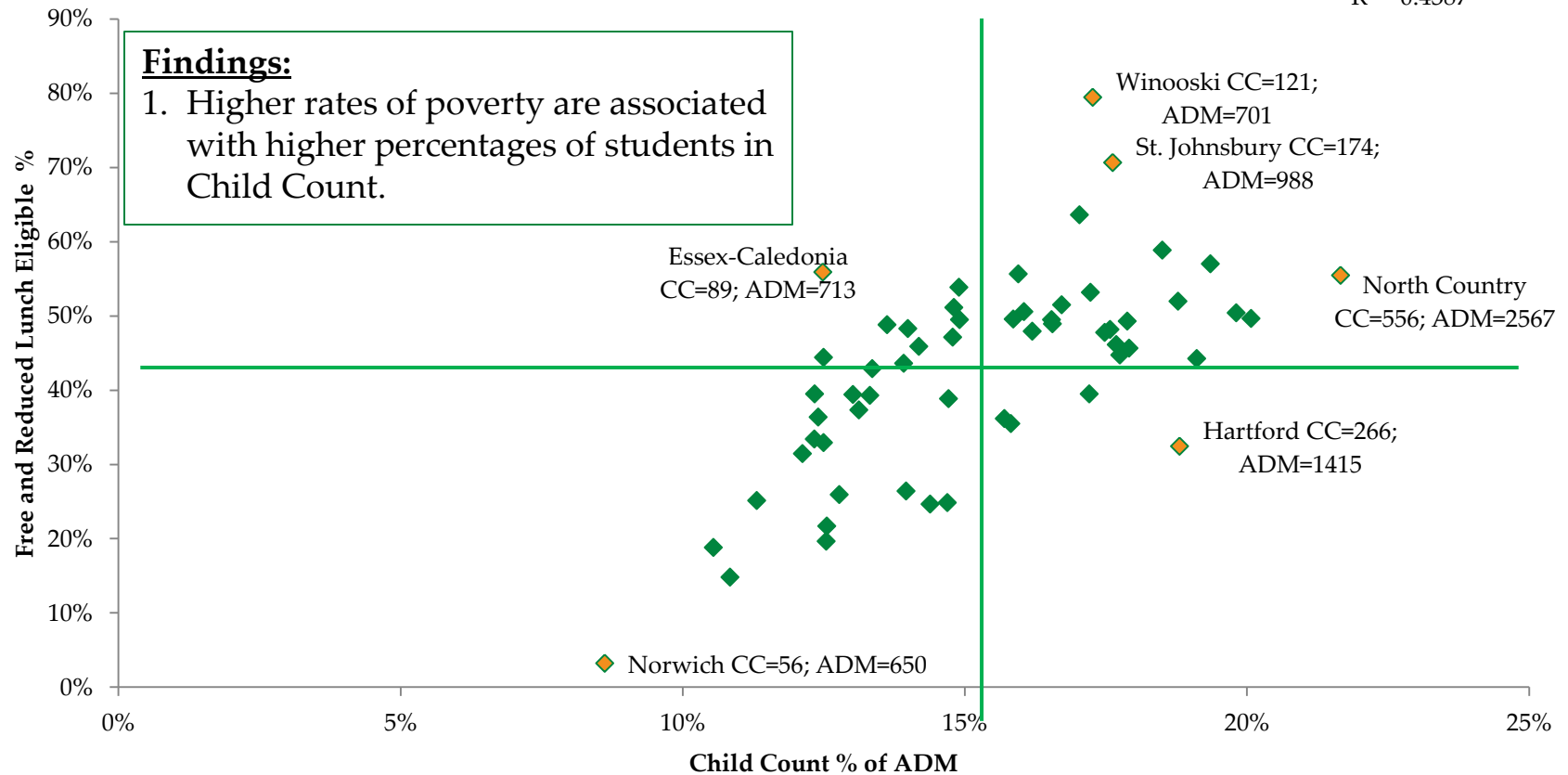
Findings:

1. Extremes in spending are most commonly found in smaller districts-a few exceptions exist

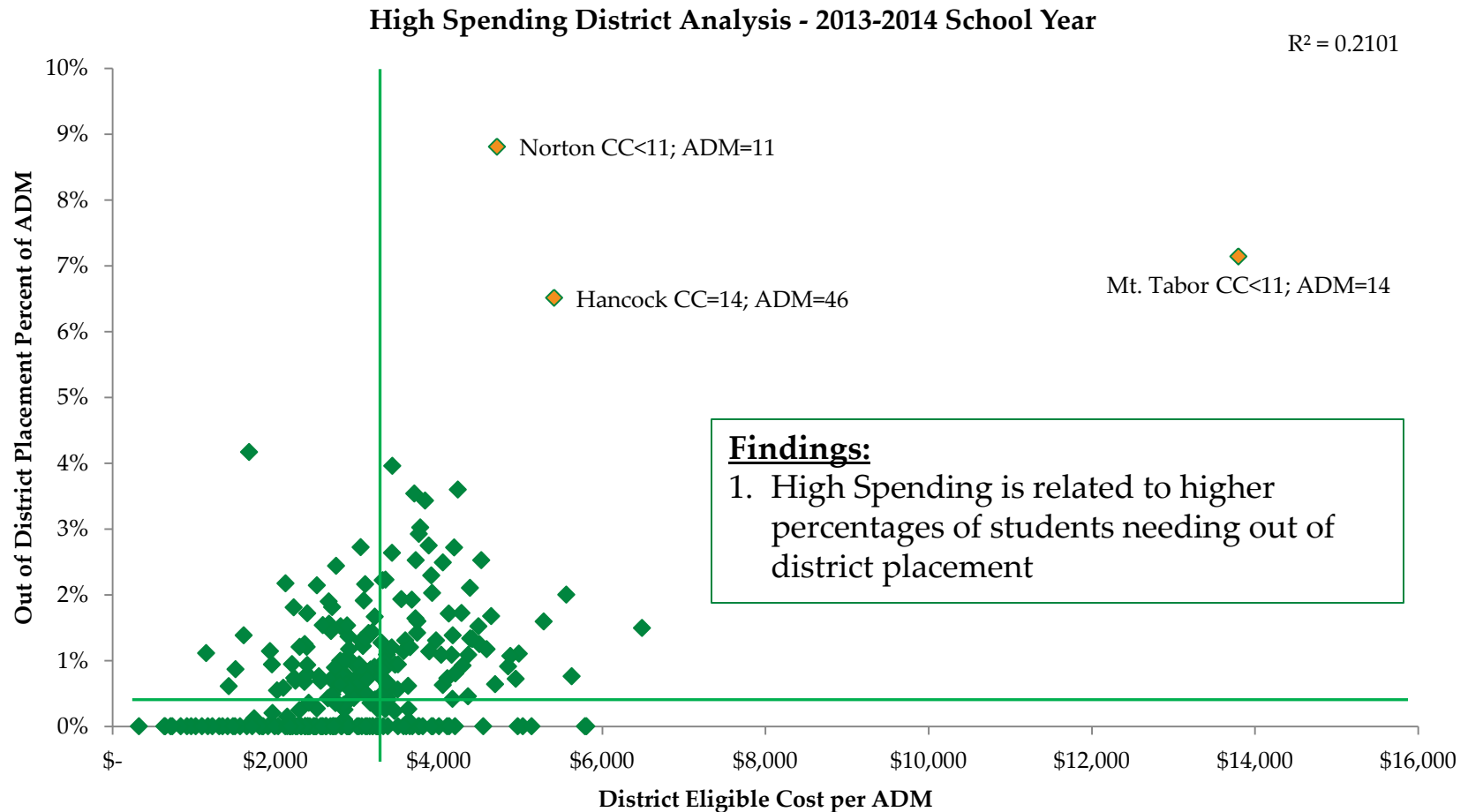
Free and Reduced Lunch Eligible % by Child Count % of ADM

FY2014 Special Education Spending Analysis

$R^2 = 0.4387$



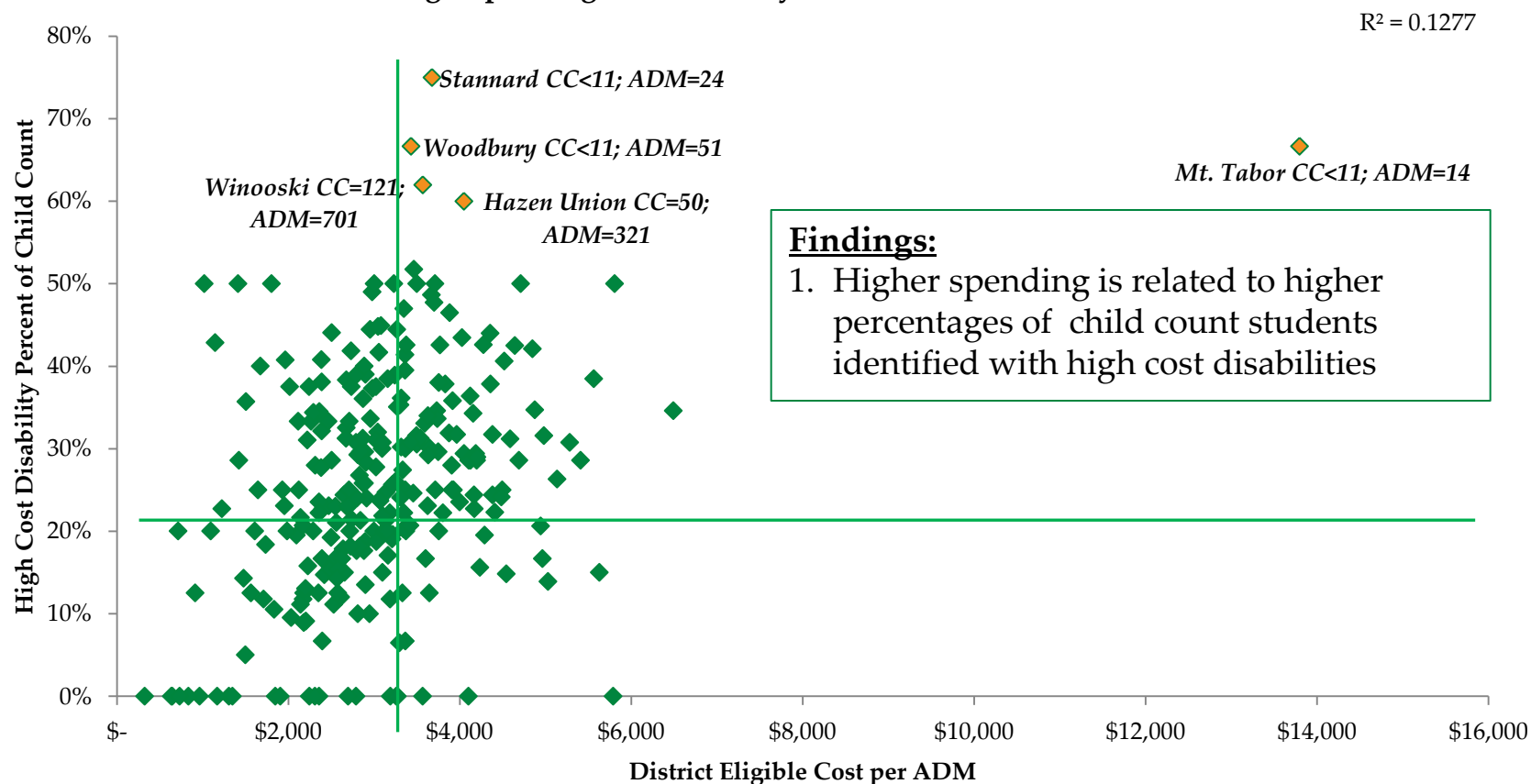
Average Elig. Special Ed Cost per ADM by Out of District Placement Percent of ADM



Average Eligible Special Ed Cost per ADM by High Cost Disability Percent of Child Count

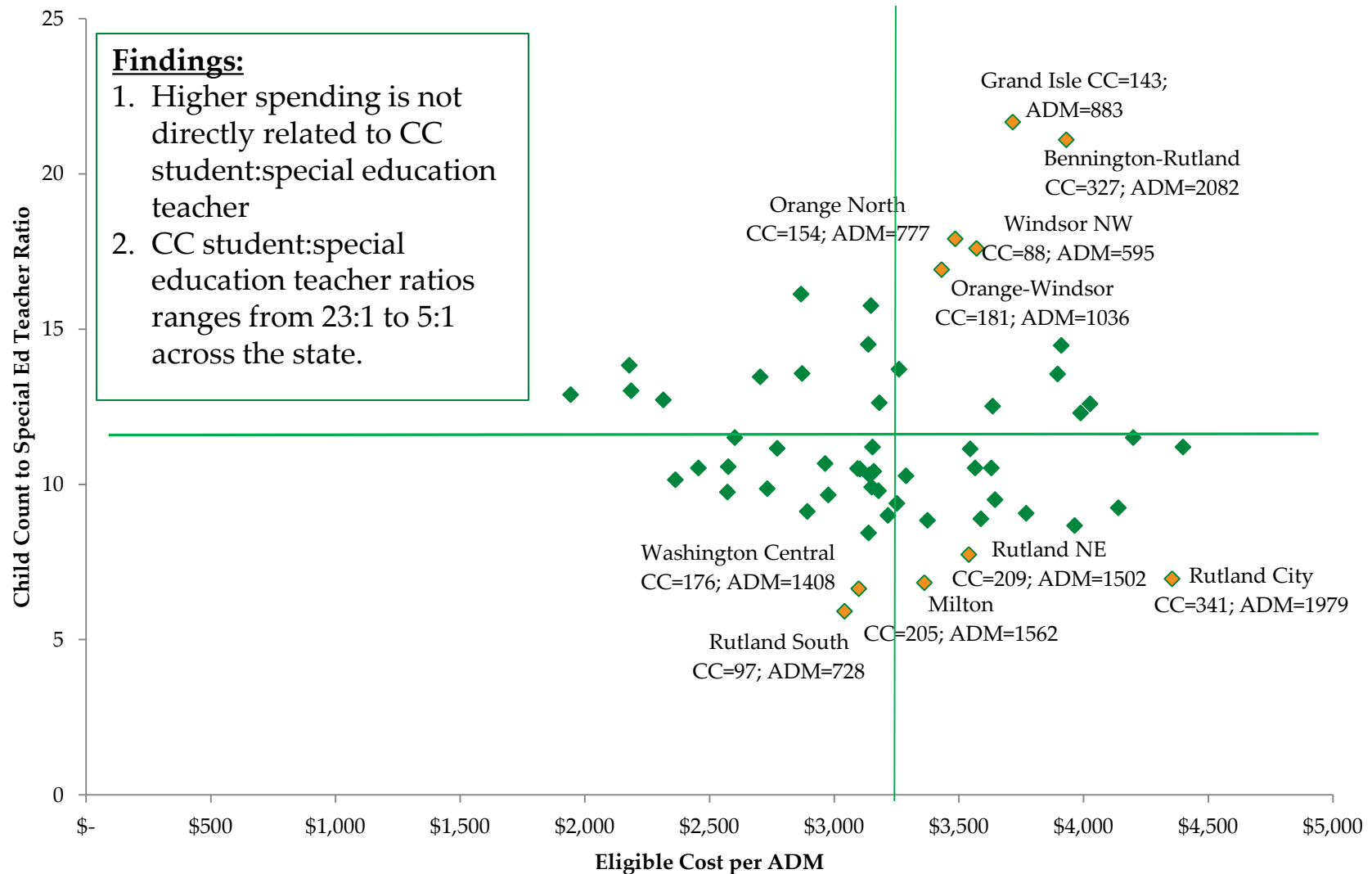
High Cost Disabilities include Intellectual Disability, Deaf, Visual Impairment, Deaf-Blind, Multiple Disabilities

High Spending District Analysis - 2013-2014 School Year



Eligible Cost per ADM by CC/Teacher Ratio

$R^2 = 0.0013$

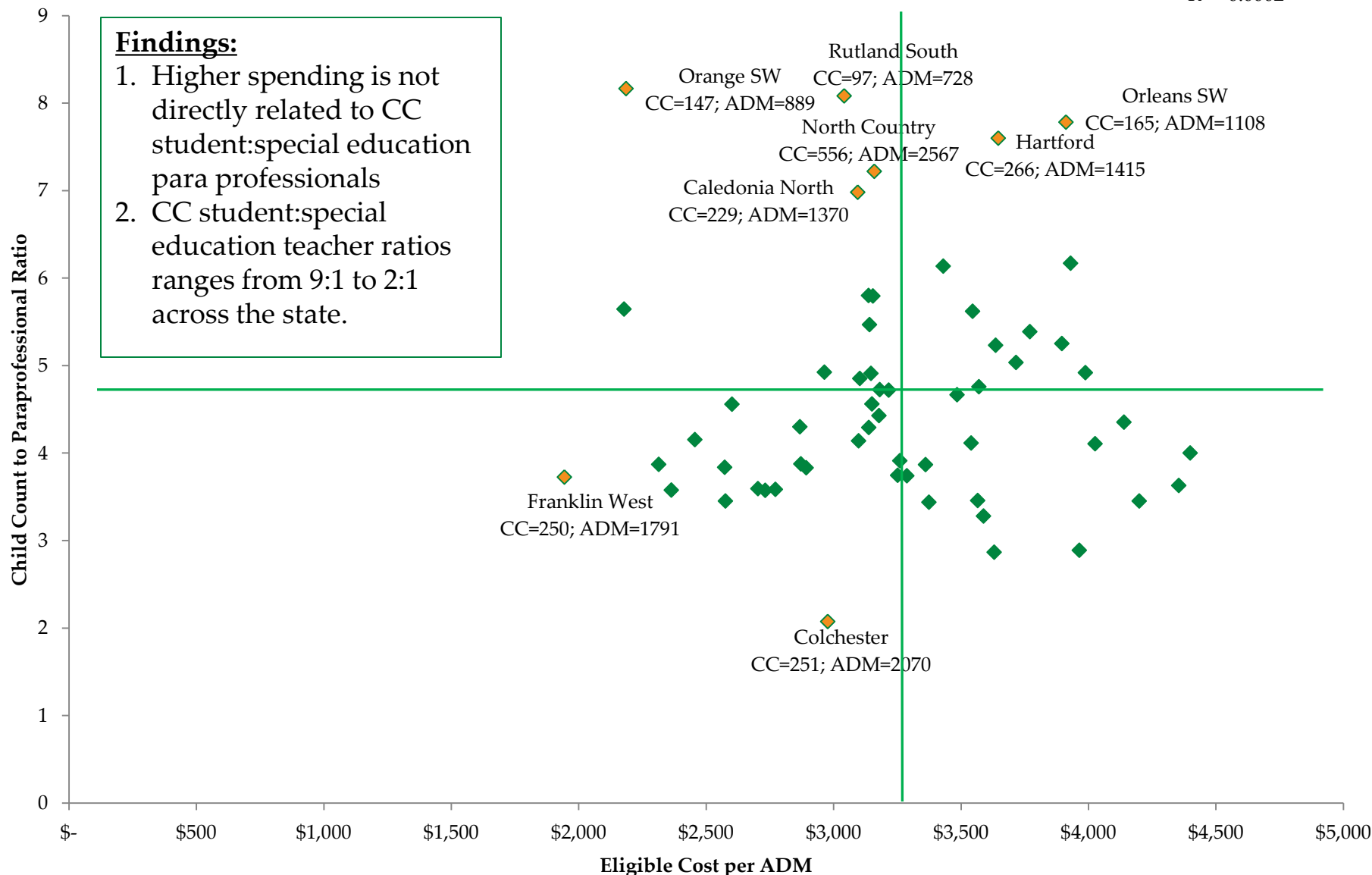


Elig. Cost per ADM by CC/Para Ratio

$R^2 = 0.0002$

Findings:

1. Higher spending is not directly related to CC student:special education para professionals
2. CC student:special education teacher ratios ranges from 9:1 to 2:1 across the state.



Elig. Cost per ADM by CC/ Total Teacher Para Ratio

$R^2 = 0.0012$

